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A.—(*a*) No.

(*b*) The question does not arise.

Mr. J. A. SALDANHA :—" I want to know whether Government can really say that they have not received a memorial. I am positively sure that a memorial was sent more than a month ago."

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" The hon. Member need not furnish information. But he has only to put his supplementary question."

Mr. J. A. SALDANHA :—" I want to know whether Government is positively sure that no memorial was received."

The hon. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—" As will be evident from the question itself, I am in charge of railways and my hon. Colleague Dr. Subbarayan is in charge of carriage roads. Therefore, both our departments have looked into the matter, and found that no memorial has been received. That is all I can say."

Constitution of districts, divisions and taluks

Headquarters for West Godavari district.

* 223 *Q.*—Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR : Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the question of fixing the headquarters for the West Godavari district has been finally settled ; if not, what are the places now under consideration and when is the question to be finally settled ; and

(*b*) whether the chief official opinion and the general public opinion are in favour of Ellore or Nidadavole ?

A.—(*a*) The Government have decided that Ellore should be the headquarters of the district and have issued orders accordingly in G.O. No. 704, Revenue, dated 3rd May 1926, which has been placed on the Editors' Table.

(*b*) The majority of the local officers consulted were in favour of Nidadavole and the general public opinion as reflected by the vote on the resolution moved in the Legislative Council in August 1925 was in favour of Ellore.

Mr. P. C. VENKATAPATI RAJU :—" With reference to the answer to clause (*b*), is the hon. the Revenue Member aware that the majority of the people consulted in the matter voted in favour of Nidadavole ? "

The hon. Mr. N. E. MARJORIBANKS :—" If the hon. Member says so, I accept it, Sir." (Laughter.)

Mr. P. C. VENKATAPATI RAJU :—" Is the hon. the Revenue Member aware that the relative importance of the two places, Nidadavole and Ellore, were not discussed in this Council ? "

The hon. Mr. N. E. MARJORIBANKS :—" There again, I am prepared to accept the hon. Member's assurance, Sir."

Mr. P. C. VENKATAPATI RAJU :—" Is the hon. the Revenue Member aware that it is only very few members, including even those who were not

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representatives of the district, have voted for Ellore while the great majority were neutral ? "

The hon. Mr. N. E. MARJORIBANKS :—" Again, Sir, I am prepared to accept that it is so."

Mr. D. NARAYANA RAJU :—" May I know, Sir, whether some of the taluk boards in the district of West Godavari passed resolutions recommending Nidadavole and none recommended Ellore ? " 11-15 a.m.

The hon. Mr. N. E. MARJORIBANKS :—" I have no recollection ; I must ask for notice."

Mr. D. NARAYANA RAJU :—" From the proceedings of the Finance Committee I find that the Finance Committee approved of the headquarters without prejudice to the selection of the building scheme site. In view of the recommendation of the Finance Committee, will the Government give this House an opportunity to reconsider this question ? "

The hon. Mr. N. E. MARJORIBANKS :—" It cannot be indefinitely going on. There must be a time-limit. We must settle it some time. The longer we delay the greater the inconvenience to the public. The Government at the time had an open mind, and the Council voted for Ellore and we proceeded accordingly."

Mr. K. V. R. SWAMI :—" Have any moneys been spent by way of preliminaries ? "

The hon. Mr. N. E. MARJORIBANKS :—" Some money has been spent. I must ask for notice if you want the exact figures. There has been some expenditure but not very much."

Mr. B. Venkataratnam asked a question in Telugu.

The hon. Mr. N. E. MARJORIBANKS :—" I do not understand the question of the hon. Member." (Laughter.)

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" You have ruled, Sir, that the hon. Member for East Godavari is entitled to ask questions in his mother tongue, and I submit that the Treasury Bench must make arrangements either in consultation with you or with their own officers to get the questions translated. To raise a laughter by admitting ignorance of the language is certainly not an answer to the question. I refuse to be a party to the Council being made a place for jokes of this kind."

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" The hon. Member for the University will remember that it has been pointed out that it is the duty of the President to make arrangements for the purpose and I have accepted suggestions from the Treasury Bench. On the former occasion I did make arrangements for translation. I shall now call for one of the Telugu clerks of the office and ask him to translate the question."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" I am much obliged to you, Sir. I was raising that point in order that the hon the Revenue Member may ask the question to be translated instead of raising a laughter by saying that he does not understand the language of the question."

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Mr. B. Venkataratnam repeated his question which was translated by the Secretary to Council thus:

"As regards the headquarters of the West Godavari district, did Government issue a Government Order fixing Nidadavole as headquarters?"

The hon. Mr. N. E. Marjoribanks:—"No, Sir."

Mr. P. C. Venkatapati Raju:—"Will the hon. the Revenue Member be pleased to say whether any proceedings have been issued stating that Nidadavole should be the headquarters or was the place in view of the Government as to the headquarters of the district at the time of the bifurcation of the district?"

The hon. Mr. N. E. Marjoribanks:—"My recollection is clear that Government did not commit itself to any particular place."

Famine

Famine conditions in upland taluks of Guntur district.

* 224 *Q.*—Mr. P. Anjaneyulu: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government are aware of the fact that there is famine in the upland taluks of Guntur district and in several other districts in this Presidency;

(*b*) whether the Government propose to start famine-relief works in any, and if so in what districts; and

(*c*) whether the Government will be pleased to state the amount of famine insurance fund available at present?

A.—(*a*) If by 'Famine' the hon. Member means starvation, the Government have no reason to suppose that any such conditions prevail in any part of the Presidency.

(*b*) In view of the answer to clause (*a*) above, the Government do not propose to start at present relief works in accordance with the provisions of the Famine Code but steps have been taken in those areas of the Presidency in which it has been found necessary to do so to expand ordinary works programmes, to make grants to local boards for the execution of village and other works, and to grant loans freely under the Loans Acts.

(*c*) The amount at the credit of the fund will be Rs. 30,56,856 on 1st April 1927.

Mr. P. Siva Rao:—"With reference to answer to (*a*), may I ask whether famine is defined as starvation?"

The hon. Mr. N. E. Marjoribanks:—"I do not know; but in common English famine does mean starvation."

Mr. P. Siva Rao:—"I want to know whether famine conditions do not prevail in certain districts of the Presidency, especially Bellary? I want to know also what are the conditions laid down before an area is declared to be famine-stricken?"

The hon. the President:—"Order, order. The hon. Member will see that the question refers to Guntur and he cannot raise any supplementary question regarding Bellary."